

IN THE CLAIMS:

Please cancel Claims 1, 2, 4-6, 8-11 and 14-20 without prejudice to or disclaimer of the subject matter recited therein.

Please amend Claims 21-24 and add new Claims 25-28, as follows.

Claims 1-20 (Cancelled).

21. (Currently Amended) A The printing process according to Claim 9 comprising the steps of:

providing a printing paper comprising a center portion having a rectangular form having two pairs of opposite sides connected by four corners, and a pair of outside portions connected to the center portion at one pair of the two pairs of opposite sides of the center portion, wherein the outside portions are edge portions of the printing paper and are removed from the center portion after an image is formed on the center portion, wherein the other pair of the two pairs of opposite sides of the center portion are not connected to any other printing paper, wherein the center portion has a curved edge smoothly connecting adjacent sides of the center portion at four corners, and the outside portions are connected to the center portion via a straight line portion located between the curved edges and are removed from the center portion at the straight line portion, and wherein the outside portions are connected to only one center portion;

conveying the printing paper while holding one of the outside portions of the printing paper;

conducting printing on the center portion of the printing paper; and  
cutting off the outside portions of the printing paper from the center portion,  
wherein the outside portions are provided so that a pair of conveyer rollers hold the printing paper without releasing the printing paper until the printing is completed, and wherein the printing can be conducted over the whole surface of the center portion even if the printing paper is conveyed with either one of the pair of outside portions as a leading edge.

22. (Currently Amended) ~~A~~ ~~The printing process according to Claim 10,~~  
comprising the steps of:

providing a label printing paper comprising an image receiving layer releasably  
laminated on a supporting layer, the label printing paper having a center portion having a  
rectangular form having two pairs of opposite sides connected by four corners and a pair of  
outside portions connected to the center portion at one pair of the two pairs of opposite sides of  
the center portion, wherein the outside portions are edge portions of the printing paper and are  
removed from the center portion after an image is formed on the center portion, wherein the other  
pair of the two pairs of opposite sides of the center portion are not connected to any other label  
printing paper, wherein the center portion has a curved edge smoothly connecting adjacent sides  
of the center portion at four corners, and the outside portions are connected to the center portion  
via a straight line portion located between the curved edges and are removed from the center  
portion at the straight line portion, and wherein the outside portions are connected to only one  
center portion;

conveying the label printing paper while holding one of the outside portions of the label printing paper;

conducting printing on the center portion of the label printing paper; and  
separating the image-receiving layer at the center portion from the supporting layer, wherein the outside portions are provided so that a pair of conveyer rollers hold the label printing paper without releasing the label printing paper until the printing is completed, and wherein the printing can be conducted over the whole surface of the center portion even if the label printing paper is conveyed with either one of the pair of outside portions as a leading edge.

23. (Currently Amended) A The printing system according to Claim 11,  
comprising:

a printing paper comprising a center portion having a rectangular form having two pairs of opposite sides connected by four corners, and a pair of outside portions connected to the center portion at one pair of the two pairs of opposite sides of the center portion, wherein the outside portions are edge portions of the printing paper and are removed from the center portion after an image is formed on the center portion, wherein the other pair of the two pairs of opposite sides of the center portion are not connected to any other printing paper, wherein the center portion has a curved edge smoothly connecting adjacent sides of the center portion at four corners, and the outside portions are connected to the center portion via a straight line portion located between the curved edges and are removed from the center portion at the straight line portion, and wherein the outside portions are connected to only one center portion;

a print head for conducting printing on the center portion of the printing paper;  
and

a pair of conveyer rollers for holding the outside portions of the printing paper to convey the printing paper, wherein the outside portions are provided so that the pair of conveyer rollers hold the printing paper without releasing the printing paper until the printing is completed, and wherein the printing can be conducted over the whole surface of the center portion even if the printing paper is conveyed with either one of the pair of outside portions as a leading edge.

24. (Currently Amended) A The printing system according to Claim 14,  
comprising:

a label printing paper comprising an image receiving layer releasably laminated on a supporting layer, the label printing paper having a center portion having a rectangular form having two pairs of opposite sides connected by four corners and a pair of outside portions connected to the center portion at one pair of the two pairs of opposite sides of the center portion, wherein the outside portions are edge portions of the printing paper and are removed from the center portion after an image is formed on the center portion, wherein the other pair of the two pairs of opposite sides of the center portion are not connected to any other label printing paper, wherein the center portion has a curved edge smoothly connecting adjacent sides of the center portion at four corners, and the outside portions are connected to the center portion via a straight line portion located between the curved edges and are removed from the center portion at the straight line portion, and wherein the outside portions are connected to only one center portion;

a print head for conducting printing on the center portion of the label printing paper; and

a pair of conveyer rollers for holding the outside portions of the label printing paper to convey the label printing paper, wherein the outside portions are provided so that the pair of conveyer rollers hold the label printing paper without releasing the label printing paper until the printing is completed, and wherein the printing can be conducted over the whole surface of the center portion even if the label printing paper is conveyed with either one of the pair of outside portions as a leading edge.

25. (New) The printing paper according to Claim 21, wherein the printing paper has perforations between the center portion and the outside portions.

26. (New) The printing paper according to Claim 23, wherein each curved edge is an arc form.

27. (New) The label printing paper according to Claim 22, wherein the printing paper has perforations between the center portion and the outer portions.

28. (New) The label printing paper according to Claim 24, wherein each curved edge is an arc form.